

“Forest Eco” Podcast & Radio Module

Southern Research Station

U.S. Forest Service

Asheville, N.C.

“Celebrating Experimental Forests of the South”

Length: 2 minutes

(Air from July 2009 through December 2009)

(open with natural forest sound)

(narrator)

From Virginia to Florida, Texas to Kentucky....This is Forest Eco.

This year, the United States celebrates the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Nation’s experimental forests and ranges.

Nineteen experimental forests are found in the South and Southeast.

They range from the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in western North Carolina to the Crossett Experimental Forest in southern Arkansas, both of which turn 75 years young this year.

So what are experimental forests and why are they important?

For answers, we turn to Jim Guldin, U.S. Forest Service ecologist and manager of the Crossett Experimental Forest.

He says the primary role of experimental forests has been to show how management practices affect the land, so foresters and landowners can manage forests in a sustainable way and meet objectives.

(Jim Guldin, 30 seconds)

“Now on public lands, that can mean anything from the multiple uses of timber, watershed, recreation, wildlife and range issues. But on private land it can be something like a landowner who wants to have timber production and bobwhite quail or pretty flowers to look at or to have a forest around his cabin in the woods that still produces timber to pay the taxes on the land. Our experimental forests give us the tools to show people how to manage forests landowners for the benefits they like.”

He adds that tree growth data collected over decades from experimental forests will help managers address modern-day threats such as climate change.

Guldin also has this month's Forest Eco-tip. He encourages people visiting experimental forests to stay on designated trails. This will help preserve the important research projects underway.

To learn more about the region's experimental forests, search online for "experimental forests of the south."

'Forest Eco' is produced by the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station, which is solely responsible for its content.

For 'Forest Eco'...I'm Stevin Westcott"

(close with natural forest sounds)